**CWMDU AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMDU A'R CYLCH**

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**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting Held at Cwmdu Village Hall**

**On 3rd February ‘22**

**Present**

**Chairman -** Martin Harbour (MATH),

**Councillors:** John Williams (JDW), David Meyer (DM), Janice Block (JEB), Hank Jackson (RDHJ), John Morgan (FJM)

**County Councillor:** Kathryn Silk (KS),

**In Attendance:** None

**Apologies:** Leslie Doggett (LMD), Heather Sweeting (HGS), Sylvia O’Brien (SO), Colin Morris (CJM)

**Declarations of Interest**

None.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The person in attendance at the last meeting was Diane (not Leslie) Jackson.

The Old School is in Bwlch, not Cwmdu.

The appointment of a suitably qualified Clerk to the Council **may** be necessary. The present Clerk was asked to find out what the rules were.

Subject to the corrections above, the Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**Matters Arising**

The Clerk was asked to write to Colin Morris to remind him that he hasn’t attended a meeting for more than 6 months.

The Clerk said that he had now found a pro-forma version of the Declaration of Interest forms and would modify those. KS suggested asking One Voice Wales if they had pro-forma forms.

The Revitalising Trust have confirmed that they are satisfied with our submissions on Vedw Wood.

**Highways**

MATH said that the widening of the road in Tretower was currently in the planning stage and most probably, no action would take place until 2023.

The Clerk said that he had written to the Trunk Road Agency a second time to request a 30mph speed limit in Cwmdu.

MATH had been told that the road to the Cwmdu caravan site should be repaired within the next few weeks.

**Correspondence**

Councillors nominated Bob Doak as their representative to the Buckingham Palace Garden Party.

There will be a tea party for Cwmdu residents on the Sunday of the Diamond Jubilee weekend.

DM suggested using gas patio heaters as beacons on hilltops. MATH said that he would discuss this with Rosemary Harris.

The Liberal Democratic candidate for Crickhowell (Matthew Beecham) has written to say that he wants to attend a future meeting. Cwmdu & Tretower fall into the Crickhowell constituency; Bwlch falls into Llangorse.

DM said that if he has reached out to us, we should invite him to a meeting. The Clerk was asked to send him a list of future meeting dates and ask him to let us know which date was convenient for him.

**Planning**

**21/2043/FUL – Castle Cottage, Tretower – Replacement boundary wall**

Application withdrawn.

**21/20557/FUL – The Beeches, Bwlch – Single storey extension to north east elevation**

Planning permission granted.

**Financials**

There was a discussion regarding the amount of the Precept to be granted for the coming year. KS said that the Council would be granted whatever sum it asked for, but the negative aspect was that Council Tax might have to be increased.

It was agreed that we should ask for a Precept of £15,500.

The following payments were agreed:

**000947 Tretower Village Hall - £600.00:** Replace lost cheque no.000931.

**000948 S O’Brien - £40.00:** Cost of ticket to Second Homes webinar.

**000949 B S Khaneka - £56.70:** Travel expenses for January ’22.

**Playing Fields & Allotments**

JEB & KS had a meeting with Roger from the Allotment Society and Vincent Playden of the Highways Agency regarding the flooding on the road by the Old School. It was suggested that we divert the flood water to the Allotments by putting scaffolding around a pipe passing under the road.

Sarah Farr from the caravan site wanted to know if the Council was willing to invest in some sports equipment for the playing field.

JEB suggested having a site meeting with Sarah to take this further.

JDW suggested that Powys Sports Development might be willing to donate some equipment.

JDW will ask Steve Morris (who cuts the grass on the playing field) to also cut the grass on the driveway.

**Bench at The Crindau, Bwlch**

The site is on common land and it was agreed that we should carry on with the installation work.

Bob Smith (a resident) had written to the Highways Agency to ask if the site was suitable as a passing space.

**Council Clerk’s Qualifications**

The Welsh Government has recently issued an instruction requiring Council Clerks to hold certain professional qualifications. These come into effect on 5th May ’22. A Community Council may continue to employ an unqualified clerk, but it will not then be classified as an “eligible community council”. The recommended qualifications for the Clerk are:

Certificate of Higher Education in Local Council Administration (CiLCA)

Certificate of Higher Education in Community Governance

Certificate of Higher Education in Community Engagement and Governance

Certificate of Higher Education in Local Policy

The recommended qualification is CiLCA. Its training course costs approximately £500 (excluding professional fees) and takes 6 months to 1 year to complete.

The Clerk was asked to contact One Voice Wales to find out what the consequences are of a council not being an “eligible community council”.

**Any Other Business**

None.

There being no further matters to discuss, the Meeting was terminated.